

## Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District

Workforce Preparedness Program

Denali Commission Grant #1579

Reporting Period: 10/1/20 – 12/31/20

During the reporting period, KPEDD staff worked with the Challenger Learning Center and website designer to finalize the website content and layout. The domain name is currently being selected and a link to the completed site will be emailed to the Denali Commission project contacts by the end of January. The site features a complete list of: apprenticeship and training programs; GED prep and testing sites; scholarships for each leading industry; list of leading industries in the region and their respective training requirements and wages; resume builder support; disability, veteran, and employer services; project partners (spotlighting the Denali Commission and EDA); a career finder test; and an embedded link to search jobs in the region.

The workforce site will be utilized by the school district to guide students to resources and training programs, by the Department of Labor to identify regional programs and retraining needs, by Kenai Peninsula businesses to train and grow their workforce, and by public and educational organizations to reduce redundant programs.

COVID-19 greatly restricted travel which was a large portion of the projected costs under the EDA project contribution. The redirection of those costs were used towards personnel expenses and the “other” cost category towards website development expenses (designer fees, hosting fees, media, additional research, plugins, etc.). The Denali Commission funds were used as budgeted towards research, content and website development under the “contractual” cost category. Although the site has been much more intensive than originally anticipated, we believe the final product will directly support our workforce development efforts and connect residents with the resources needed to begin career development.

